

termine quickly the status of such ships and take measures accordingly.

#### Feel Free To Attack.

For, it is stated, German submarines will most certainly feel free to attack all enemy vessels so armed without warning, and the German government would not regard itself as being in any sense liable if American citizens, traveling on such vessels or employed in the crews of such vessels, came to their death in consequence of such attacks.

And, in deciding on the status of the British vessels, it is pointed out in these quarters, the United States must determine once and for all time the distinction between merchant ships that are armed for defense and those that are armed for offense.

#### Expect Warning.

It is the German view, as bearing, perhaps, on the future course of German submarine activities, that if it is established that British merchantmen have received orders to mount guns forward as well as aft, the United States Government should not only deny such ships the hospitality of American ports, but should warn American citizens not to take passage or accept employment on them.

The German government, it is authoritatively stated, has dropped with its pledges to the United States the defense that attacks on enemy merchant ships per se without warning is justifiable as a retaliation against the British "station blockading." Germany, it is stated, is willing henceforth to restrict her submarines to the limits laid down for cruiser warfare on enemy shipping.

#### No Difference in Principle.

She no longer, it is stated, differs with the United States in principle. But, it is admitted, there are certain, from time to time, to arise "incidents" in connection with future submarine activities wherein "technical differences" may arise between the two governments as to the carrying out of the pledges.

That the entente reply to President Wilson definitely and firmly closed, or the present at least, the door to groups of "unofficial" views, as they are called in German circles. On this basis, it is stated, Germany is prepared to go on with the struggle, aided, it is declared in enemy quarters, by a realization on the part of the people of the central powers that their only course is to fight on.

#### When Peace Will Come.

"Peace will come," declared a high embassy official, "when the entente allies are convinced, as they must sooner or later be convinced, that Germany cannot be beaten."

"If there is any change in the military situation it will be to the further advantage of the central powers. The danger of food shortages, which the entente allies have been depending on to bring Germany to her knees, has been completely removed by the Roumanian campaign."

If there is to be any further peace move, it is declared in these quarters, President Wilson will have to act on

his own initiative. There will be no further move in that direction by Germany.

#### No Further Move.

In American official circles the impression prevails that there can be no further move by the President. Furthermore, it is felt that by his premature action already, the President not only courted the rebuff he has received, but has actually postponed the time when the United States might otherwise have acted with success.

To put it another way, it is felt that had the President not placed himself in the position of coupling up his action with the overtures of Germany, the time might have come, six months or a year hence, when he could have proffered his good offices.

#### Bars Another Effort.

As it is, the opinion is expressed, the positive and flat rejection of his proffer by the entente must necessarily prevent him from making another move until both sides shall have definitely and unequivocally indicated a willingness to hear him.

On the other hand, it is regarded as not improbable that the President, dropping all thought of further action in the direction of peace, may address to the belligerents a warning that the United States cannot continue to have her rights as a neutral invaded by both sides, but from now on will insist on a rigid observance of these rights.

#### Only Way Out.

Only in this way, many competent observers indicate, will Mr. Wilson find it possible to retire gracefully from the awkward position in which he has been left.

Overnight examination of the allies' belief of officials that there exists not the slightest loophole through which further peace negotiations could proceed. The determination of the entente powers to make it certain that their refusal to talk peace at this time, it is pointed out by their diplomats here, has been emphasized in masterful fashion by the action of Belgium in sending a separate note.

#### Reason For Action.

The reason for this separate note, it was explained, was due to a realization that it might otherwise be inferred that Belgium was being forced into line by her more powerful allies.

On the contrary, it is maintained, the separate note gives notice to the world that the people of Belgium, trodden down as they are under the heel of the invader, are not to be beguiled by Germany's promises to restore their country, but insist that peace when it comes shall be such as to protect their rights for the future.

"If there is a country," reads her note to President Wilson, "which has the right to say that it has taken up arms to defend its existence, it is surely Belgium. Compelled to fight or to submit to shame, she passionately desires that an end be brought to the unprecedented sufferings of her popu-

lation. But she could only accept a peace which would assure her, as well as equitable reparation, security and guarantees for the future."

#### Must Convince People.

Coming from a country whose sufferings in the war have stirred up no sympathy in the United States, it is pointed out, the note from Belgium must convince the American people, if the joint note of the other allies would not, that peace cannot be talked of now.

Moreover, say the entente allies, it must make President Wilson understand as he has not heretofore appeared to understand, that the aims of the allies are at one with the principles of humanity and that these ends cannot be obtained through any peace that could be made at this time.

That the entente reply should take exception to the implied inference of President Wilson that the aims of both sides in the war as expressed by their respective statements are identical, was to be expected; but whereas the joint reply hastens to express the conviction that such an inference was not held, the Belgium note bluntly asserts that "the President seems to believe that the statements of the two opposing camps pursue the same objects of war."

#### Note Goes Further.

Attention was called today in entente diplomatic quarters to the fact that the joint reply, while rejecting the proposal of the President for a peace conference, is scrupulously careful to go much further toward meeting his other wishes than the reply from the central powers.

For, while Germany and her allies ignored completely the request of the President for a statement of terms, the entente reply sets forth the terms of this group in considerable detail.

In German quarters these terms, naturally, are regarded as quite impossible. Upon the basis of them, it is declared, peace could never be made, for it would be a peace based on the dismemberment of Germany's allies—such a dismemberment as would leave Germany itself impotent. It was predicted that their publication will tend not only to stiffen the resistance of Germany but solidify more than ever the Central Powers. At the same time, it is declared in these quarters, it may be expected that when the time does come to talk peace, the allies know full well that their terms will have to be modified.

#### FOUND DEAD IN BED.

J. E. Fowler, forty-five years old, was found dead in bed in his room at 515 Second street northwest, today by Alexander J. B. Leider, occupant of the house.

Leider told the police Fowler had been complaining of feeling ill for several days, but had had no medical attention. Coroner Nevitt ordered the body sent to the morgue, where he will examine it to determine the cause of death.

Police are seeking relatives of the dead man.

## URGE TEACHERS' BILL AT HEARING

Civic Bodies Represented at Meeting of Senate Committee.

(Continued from First Page.)

system, whereby a portion of the retirement fund would be paid by the teachers and a portion by the District and Federal governments.

#### Eventual Decrease.

"The first year it will cost the Federal Government and the District about \$35,000," Mr. Browne stated. "The cost to the Government will increase gradually to a maximum of about \$150,000 per annum. It then will gradually decrease in about fifty years to less than 5 per cent of the salary roll."

Mr. Browne incidentally showed the difference between the work of the Government clerk and the school teacher. The instructor, he said, because of the nature of her work, must retire much earlier in life than the average Government clerk.

#### Displayed Charts.

Mr. Browne presented a series of charts and tables to show the committee how he had arrived at the plan for retirement of the teachers, but did not go into detailed explanation.

Senator Hollis, chairman of the subcommittee in charge of the hearing, asked if there were any persons present who desired to voice objection to the bill.

#### Objection by Few.

The only objection was made by Dr. John Van Schaick, president of the Board of Education, who stated that in fairness to those who had written him he would say that there was a slight objection on the part of a few of the teachers to paying 4 per cent of their income "when they might save that amount and get 5 per cent on it." Dr. Van Schaick added that this objection was from so small a number that he considered it negligible.

"Although it would be more democratic not to force the teachers to join this retirement plan, I feel that for the good of the whole body of teachers, and for the service itself, this is the most equitable plan that could be worked out."

#### Should Contribute.

"From the standpoint of the community it is important that the teachers be required to contribute. The Board of Education would be likely to feel lenient toward a teacher who was not a member of this system and

who had arrived at the age of retirement. This would be bad for the school system, because it would tend to keep this teacher on the pay roll. The teachers exist for the schools, not the schools for the teachers. I hope somebody will cut off my head if I ever subordinate the interests of the pupils in the schools to those of the teachers."

#### Commissioners Favorable.

Commissioner Oliver P. Newman told the committee that the District Board of Commissioners were highly in favor of the bill.

The Chamber of Commerce was represented by Charles B. Claggett, who stated that the chamber was in favor of the measure.

#### HIGH PRICE FOR RATTLESNAKE OIL

SAN ANGELO, Tex., Jan. 12.—The market value of prime rattlesnake oil is \$14.40 a pound. That price was paid here to John Blakemore, of Colorado City, Tex., world's rattlesnake king, for eight pounds of oil. This quantity was extracted from forty-eight diamond backs, the most poisonous of the species. San Angelo boasts one of the few rattlesnake oil markets of the world.

#### \$4 TO CONSCIENCE FUND.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 12.—Frank Mowry, formerly tax collector of Meekhoven, Wyoming county, paid \$4 to the State treasury to satisfy his conscience. He sent the money in a registered letter and said that "three years ago I gave my heart to God and feel that this money belongs to the State, and I must obey the spirit."

#### GOPHER NEMESIS RESIGNS.

CHAPMAN, Kan., Jan. 12.—Carl Lantis claims to be champion gopher catcher of Dickinson county. At the county seat he was paid a bounty for 100 gophers. In addition to the bounty paid by the county, the farmers pay 10 cents for each gopher caught. Mr. Lantis, who was formerly a school teacher, has abandoned that profession for this more profitable one of gopher trapping.

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